Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 88, lines 19-23 with the following:

An 845 base pair long fragment of pML122 was re-amplified for introducing a XhoI site after the stop codon with the primers Os_ok1-F3 (see above) and Os_ok1-R2Xho (AAAACTCGAGCTATGGCTGTGGCCTGCTTTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: [[20]] 19) and cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as t pMI45.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 89, line 28 to page 90, line 9 with the following:

The plasmid pIR94 was obtained by amplifying the promoter of the globulin gene from rice by means of a polymerase chain reaction (30 x 20 sec 94 °C, 20 sec 62 °C, 1 min 68 °C, 4 mM Mg_2SO_4) with the primers glb1-F2 (AAAACAATTGGCGCCTGGAGGGAGGAGA) (SEQ ID NO: [[21]] 20) and glb1-R1 (AAAACAATTGATGATCAATCAGACAATCACTAGAA) (SEQ ID NO: [[22]] 21) on the genomic DNA of rice of the variety M202 with High Fidelity Taq Polymerase (Invitrogen, catalogue number 11304-011) and cloned in pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20).

The plasmid pIR115 was obtained by cloning a synthetic piece of DNA consisting of the two oligonucleotides X1 (TGCAGGCTGCAGAGCTCCTAGGCTCGAGTTAACACTAGTAAGCTTAATTAAG ATATCATTTAC) (SEQ ID NO: [[23]] 22) and X2 (AATTGTAAATGATATCTTAATTAAGCTTACTAGTGTTAACTCGAGCCTAGGA GCTCTGCAGCCTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: [[24]] 23) in the vector pGSV71 excised with *Sda*I and *Mun*I.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 93, line 27 to page 94, line 27 with the following:

First the plasmid pIR96 was manufactured. The plasmid pIR96 was obtained by cloning a synthetic piece of DNA consisting of the two oligonucleotides X1 (TGCAGGCTGCAGAGCTCCTAGGCTCGAGTTAACACTAGTAAGCTTAATTAAG ATATCATTTAC) (SEQ ID NO: [[23]] 22) and X2 (AATTGTAAATGATATCTTAATTAAGCTTACTAGTGTTAACTCGAGCCTAGGA GCTCTGCAGCCTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: [[24]] 23) into the vector pGSV71 excised with *SdaI* and *MunI*. The plasmid obtained was excised with *SdaI* and the protruding 3'-ends were smoothed with T4 DNA polymerase. The plasmid obtained was excised with *SdaI*, the protruding 3'-ends were smoothed with T4 DNA polymerase, and a 197 base pair large *HindIII / SphI* fragment from pBinAR, smoothed with T4 DNA polymerase (Höfgen und Willmitzer, 1990, Plant Science 66, 221-230), and containing the termination signal of the octopine synthase gene from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, was inserted. The plasmid obtained was designated as pIR96.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 95, line 29 to page 96, line 7 with the following:

The *nos* terminator from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* (Depicker et al., 1982, Journal of Molecular and Applied Genetics 1: 561-573) was amplified with the primers P9 (ACTTCTgCAgCggCCgCgATCgTTCAAACATTTggCAATAAAgTTTC) (SEQ ID NO: [[25]] 24) and P10
(TCTAAgCTTggCgCCgCTAgCAgATCTgATCTAgTAACATAgATgACACC) (SEQ ID NO: [[26]] 25) (25 cycles, 30 sec 94 °C, 30 sec 58 °C, 30 sec 72 °C), digested with *HindIII* and *PstI,* and cloned into the plasmid pML4 having been excised with the same enzymes. The plasmid contained was designated as pML4-nos. A 1986 base pair long fragment containing the promoter of the polyubiquitin gene from maize (Genbank Acc.: 94464, Christensen et al., 1992, Plant Mol. Biol. 18: 675-689) and the first intron of the same gene, shortened through digestion by *ClaI* and re-insertion, were cloned into this vector. The plasmid contained was designated as pML8.